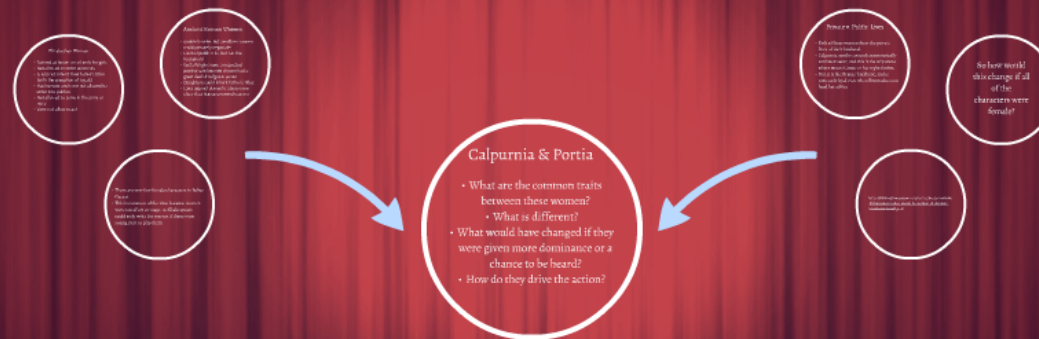


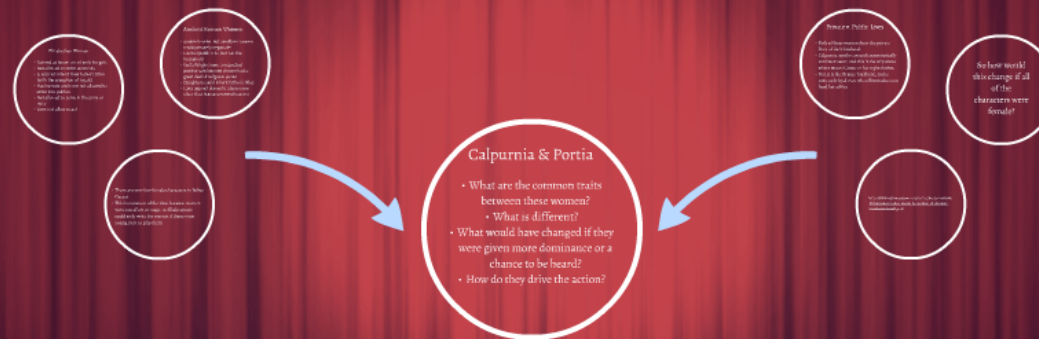
# Will's Women

## The role of women in Julius Caesar



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#### Elizabethan Women

- Tutored at home--no schools for girls
- Not allowed to enter university
- Could not inherit their father's titles (with the exception of royals)
- Had no vote and were not allowed to enter into politics
- Not allowed to serve in the army or navy
- Were not allow to act

#### Ancient Roman Women

- unable to vote, but wealthier women could privately negotiate
- Limited public role, but ran the household
- Vestal Virgins were a respected position and women chosen had a great deal of religious power
- Daughters could inherit father's titles
- Laws against domestic abuse were show that Romans revered women

- There are very few female characters in Julius Caesar
- This is common of the time because women were not allow on stage, so Shakespeare could only write for women if there were young men to play them

#### Calpurnia

- What are the relationships between Calpurnia and Brutus?
- What would Calpurnia have been given the chance to do?
- How do you think Calpurnia felt about Brutus's decision?

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Portia

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#### Private v. Public Lives

- Both of these women show the private lives of their husband.
- Calpurnia soothes an uncharacteristically anxious Caesar, and this is the only scene where we see Caesar in his night clothes.
- Portia is like Brutus' backbone, and is extremely loyal even when Brutus does not heed her advice

So how would  
this change if all  
of the  
characters were  
female?

[http://www.nytimes.com/2013/01/10/theater/reviews/shakespeare-julius-caesar-by-women-of-donmar-warehouse.html?\\_r=2](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/01/10/theater/reviews/shakespeare-julius-caesar-by-women-of-donmar-warehouse.html?_r=2)

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# Calpurnia & Portia

- What are the common traits between these women?
  - What is different?
- What would have changed if they were given more dominance or a chance to be heard?
- How do they drive the action?



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